The contents of this amendment is incorporated in Examiner's Amendment putting the application in condition for allowance.

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2004

| TO: | EXAMINER CARLOS ORTIZ | TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: | 3 |
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| FROM: | JAISON C. JOHN | | |
| RE: | 09/731,579 | FILE: | 2000.045200 |

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NOTES/COMMENTS:

Claim Amendments to Examiner's Amendments.

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Examiner Ortiz:

In response to our prior discussion, please refer to the claim amendments provided below.

Amendments were made to independent claims 1, 11, and 21, which are now allowable.

Additionally, as we discussed, independent claims 31, 33, and 35 are allowable as they are.

Therefore, in light of the amendments, all of the independent claims, as well as their respective

dependent claims, in the present application are now allowable. Please contact me with any

questions or comments. Thank you.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

measuring at least one characteristic parameter [[of processing]] relating to a rapid

thermal processing step performed on a workpiece [[in a processing step]];

modeling the at least one characteristic parameter measured using a correlation

model; and

applying the correlation model to modify the processing performed in the

processing step.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable, program storage device, encoded

with instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method comprising:

measuring at least one characteristic parameter [[of processing]] relating to a rapid

thermal processing step performed on a workpiece [[in a processing step]];

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modeling the at least one characteristic parameter measured using a correlation

model; and

applying the correlation model to modify the processing performed in the

processing step.

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer programmed to perform a method comprising:

measuring at least one characteristic parameter [[of processing]] relating to a rapid

thermal processing step performed on a workpiece [[in a processing step]];

modeling the at least one characteristic parameter measured using a correlation

model; and

applying the correlation model to modify the processing performed in the

processing step.

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